

**APPROVED: December 13, 2011**

**Rockville Environment Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, November 8, 2011  
Held at the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners:** John Becker, Julie Palakovich-Carr, Steve Cardon, Kris Dighe, Alicia Hosmer, Beri Kravitz, Devinie Lye and Clark Reed

**Absent:** Anne Goodman

**Guests:** Mark Charles, Environmental Management

Erica Shingara, Environmental Management

Andrea Jolly, Chamber of Commerce

Burt Hall, Director Recreation and Parks

Joe Arrowsmith, Resident

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:34 pm by Chair Dighe.

Introduction of Commissioners and Guest were made.

**King Farm Property Options**

The City of Rockville has been the owner of the King Farm farmhouse, barns and immediate grounds for the past 12 years. One barn on the property is currently used by Bikes of the World; and the City uses some of the other buildings for storage. The farmhouse has been empty.

Burt Hall reported on several redevelopment proposals that the City has recently received. In response to an RFI, proposals were received for expanded use by Bikes of the World, Habitat for Humanity and Growing Soul. It is possible that all three could simultaneously occupy the property. The Mayor and Council were briefed on these opportunities in August and a presentation was made to some King Farm residents in September. The Commission will invite representatives of Growing Soul to attend its December 13 meeting and discuss their proposal in more detail.

**Sustainable Maryland Certified**

Erica Shingara briefed the Commission on Rockville's efforts to pursue this certification. On October 24, the Mayor and Council voted in favor of seeking certification. Fourteen other Maryland communities have registered for the program to date. While many organizations are interested in participating in the process, the mandatory Green Team responsibilities will be filled by the Environment Commission.

The group reviewed a draft citizen survey (also required by the program) and offered comments. The survey is targeted for a January launch via the website, Rockville Reports, Channel 11 and other social media outlets.

In April 2010, the Mayor and Council endorsed the concept of a tax credit for high performing existing buildings that are retrofitted with energy efficiency and alternative electrical generation equipment. A specific proposal was made on November 8, 2010 and the Mayor and Council instructed staff to return with requisite ordinance amendments (City Code Chapter 22) for inclusion in the FY 2013 budget. The proposal is expected to be introduced at the Mayor and Council meeting on January 9, 2012. The draft proposal and Ordinance language was briefly reviewed by Commissioners. Becker moved and Kravitz seconded a motion to endorse the proposal that passed 8-0-0.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 15, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Palakovich-Carr moved approval and Hosmer seconded without revisions. The Commission approved the minutes 8-0-0.

**Due to the lateness of the hour, all remaining agenda items, including a pending Environmental Excellence Award, a follow-up discussion on the Commission's October Strategic Retreat, Committee Reports, and a Walmart discussion were deferred to the December meeting.**

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm by unanimous acclamation.

#### **Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 7:30 pm** at the **Diamondback Conference Room, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. The public is invited to attend.